70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

City of Barrie

Final

International Relations Committee

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 | **6:00 PM** | **Sir Robert Barrie Room**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by Finance and Responsible Governance Committee on April 23, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, M. Sachkiw at 6:01 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 9 -
M. Sachkiw - Co Chair and Arras
Deputy Mayor R. Thomson
LCol G. Johnston - Base Borden
A. Jones
J. Massie
L. Palson - Georgian College
J. M. Pigeon - German Twinning
B. Sergeant - Harrogate
S. Scully-Pratt - Youth Ambassadors

Absent: 6 -
Councillor J. Harris
J. Babcock - Global Perspectives Program
T. Gardiner - Japan Twinning
C. Hassey
W. Hay
K. Watson - Georgian College

STAFF:
Business Development Officer, N. Gavarre
Director of Economic and Creative Economy, S. Schlichter
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard.

The International Relations Committee met and discussed the following:

FOLLOW UP PRESENTATION - COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Tammie Maynard, Legislative Coordinator provided an update on the status of the recommendations from the Committee's meeting held on February 6, 2024

FOLLOW UP TO SAGINAW MICHIGAN EXPLORATION - NEXT STEPS

Stephanie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Economy provided a background of the Saginaw, Michigan exploration. Ms. Schlichter commented that the subcommittee met and she discussed the rationale for pursuing a sister city relationship with Saginaw, Michigan and the timing of May, 2024 to formalize the agreement.

The Committee acknowledged support for Councillor, J. Harris's direct motion listed on the City Council Agenda dated April 17, 2024, concerning sister city relationship with Saginaw, Michigan as discussed at their meeting on April 16, 2024.

Ms. Schlichter commented that the next steps is to determine the official delegation who will travel to Saginaw, Michigan between May 29 to May 31, 2024. The Committee will further discuss at their next meeting.

YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair provided an update concerning the Global Perspectives Program. He advised that students from the Innisdale Secondary High School Global Perspectives Program are currently in Cuba, and that they are having a great time.

Leslie Palson of Georgian College commented on the activities between Niels Brock and Innisdale Secondary School Global Perspectives Program which includes a Mock United Nations Assembly scheduled for April 25, 2024, at City Hall between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Shannon Scully-Pratt provided an update on the Youth Ambassador Program. Ms. Scully-Pratt advised that she has received notification from Murayama, Japan regarding a youth delegation to visit Barrie during summer, 2024, with further information to be provided at the next meeting. Mark Sachkiw commented on previous Japan youth delegation itineraries.

Deputy Mayor R. Thomson will follow up at future meeting concerning the Committee's questions surrounding liability and the program.

MURAYAMA, JAPAN UPDATE

Mark Sackiw, Co-Chair provided an update concerning Murayama, Japan. He commented on the new Consul General for Japan, and their interest in the 2024 Japan youth delegation visit to Barrie.

GERMAN DELEGATION FOLLOW UP

Nora Gavarre, Business Development Officer commented on the German delegation tour of SPS Drive Tech in Barrie.

Jean Maurice Pigeon acknowledged the passing of Hannsgeorg (George) Ohrt from Zweibrucken, Germany on April 4, 2024. He commented on Mr. Ohrt's long standing relationship with the International Relations Committee, Global Perspectives Program, and his commitment to the twinning relationship between the two municipalities.

Mr. Pigeon recognized April 16, 2024, as the anniversary of William Howard Porritt's death which is listed on Barrie's Cenotaph, and burial site in Germany's Stonefalls Cemetary

Mr. Pigeon acknowledged the 65th anniversary of the twinning relationship between Zweibrucken, Germany and Boreal.

HARROGATE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT EXCHANGE

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning the Harrogate Business Improvement District Exchange.

Mr. Sergeant indicated that Theatre by the Bay Barrie has shown a potential interest in pursuing a theatre experience in Harrogate, United Kingdom.

GEORGIAN COLLEGE AND HARROGATE COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

Leslie Palson of Georgian College provided an update concerning the Georgian College and Harrogate College Partnership.

Ms. Palson commented on the college's program, and funding of six students to travel to Harrogate, United Kingdom in February, 2025 with the objective to build an academic connection. She stated that the theme of the program is entitled "Visitors Economy is the Largest Economy."

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

CHAIRMAN